AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the present application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remains under examination in the application are presented below. The claims are presented in ascending order and each includes one status identifier. Those claims not cancelled or withdrawn but amended by the current amendment utilize the following notations for amendment: 1. deleted matter is shown by strikethrough for six or more characters and double brackets for five or less characters; and 2. added matter is shown by underlining.

1-2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) The ~~polymeric coating~~ method of claim [[1]] 13, wherein the hydrogel comprises crosslinked polymers that are selected from the group consisting of collagen, fibrinogen, albumin, and fibrin.

4. (Currently Amended) The ~~polymeric coating~~ method of claim [[1]] 13, wherein the hydrogel is made of synthetic materials.

5. (Currently Amended) The ~~polymeric coating~~ method of claim [[1]] 13, wherein the hydrogel is hydrolytically biodegradable.

6-7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently Amended) The ~~polymeric coating~~ method of claim [[1]] 13, wherein the hydrogel comprises covalently crosslinked hydrophilic polymers.

9. (Currently Amended) The ~~polymeric coating~~ method of claim [[1]] 13, wherein the visualization agent is chosen from the group consisting of FD&C Blue #1, FD&C Blue #2, methylene blue, indocyanine green, visualization agents that provide a blue color, and visualization agents that provide a green color.

10. (Currently Amended) The ~~polymeric coating~~ method of claim [[1]] 13, wherein the visualization agent is covalently linked to the hydrogel.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) The ~~polymeric coating~~ method of claim [[1]] 13, wherein the hydrogel comprises a biologically active agent.

13. (Previously Presented) A method of preparing a composition suitable to coat a tissue of a patient, the method comprising:

mixing reactive precursor species comprising nucleophilic functional groups, reactive precursor species comprising electrophilic functional groups, and a visualization agent such that the nucleophilic functional groups and electrophilic functional groups crosslink after contact with the tissue to form a hydrogel having an interior and an

exterior, with the exterior having at least one substrate coating surface and the visualization agent being at least partially disposed within the interior and reflecting or emitting light at a wavelength detectable to a human eye to thereby provide a means for visualization of the coating by a human eye.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the hydrogel forms within 60 seconds after contact with the substrate.

15. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the hydrogel forms within 5 seconds after contact with the substrate.

16. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the biodegradable hydrogel is adherent to the tissue.

17. (Original) The method of claim 13, further comprising:

applying the hydrogel onto the tissue until an average thickness is reached in which the color of the hydrogel indicates that a predetermined thickness of hydrogel has been deposited on the tissue.

18. (Original) The method of claim 17, comprising choosing the predetermined thickness to be about 0.5 to about 4.0 mm.

19. (Original) The method of claim 17, comprising choosing at least one of the reactive precursor species to have a hydrolytically biodegradable portion such that the hydrogel is biodegradable.

20. (Original) A hydrogel composition adapted for use with a tissue of a patient, the composition being made by the process of claim 16.

21-23. (Canceled)

24. (Currently Amended) A composition for coating a tissue of a patient comprising:

biocompatible means for visualization using a human eye and reactive precursor species means for forming a biodegradable hydrogel coating after contact with the tissue, [[with]] the hydrogel having an interior and an exterior, with the exterior having at least one substrate coating surface, wherein the visualization agent is at least partially disposed within the interior and reflects or emits light at a wavelength detectable to a human eye, and wherein the visualization means cause a visually observable change that indicates a hydrogel having a predetermined thickness has been formed on the tissue of a patient.

25-26. (Canceled)

27. (Currently Amended) The ~~polymeric coating~~ composition of claim [[25]] 24, wherein the means for ~~biocompatible~~ visualization [[agent]] is chosen from the group consisting of FD&C

Blue #1, FD&C Blue #2, FD&C Blue #3, FD&C Blue #6, methylene blue, indocyanine green, visualization agents that provide a blue color, and visualization agents that provide a green color.

28. (Currently Amended) A method for formulating a polymer composition that crosslinks to form a hydrogel, the method comprising selecting a concentration of visualization agent for the polymer composition such that the visualization agent causes a visually observable change that indicates that a crosslinked hydrogel having a predetermined thickness has been formed on the tissue of a patient.

29. (Original) The method of claim 28, wherein the predetermined thickness is from about 0.1 mm to about 10.0 mm.

30. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 28, wherein the observable change is not being able to see a substrate through the polymer composition.

31. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 28, wherein the observable change is not being able to see patterns in a substrate surface through the polymer composition.

32. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 28, wherein the polymer composition comprises electrophilic ~~functional group~~ functional groups and nucleophilic ~~functional group~~ functional groups that crosslink to each other.

33. (Original) The method of claim 32, wherein the polymer composition crosslinks to form a hydrogel within about 60 seconds after being applied to a substrate.

34. (Original) The method of claim 28, further comprising mixing the visualization agent at a selected concentration with reactive precursor species.

35. (Original) The method of claim 28, further comprising a biologically active agent.